

Section 18 Standard Toolkits

Sell the story...

Sensible Risk Management Toolkit

The Section 18 Standard requires every Enforcement Authority (EA) to:

- promote the principles of sensible risk management.

Basic requirements

To meet the Standard every EA should:

- **pledge their commitment to the Strategy, Health and Safety of Great Britain – Be Part of the Solution, which encompasses the principles of the Sensible Risk Management Campaign, but also encourages organisations to make a more comprehensive commitment (a previous sign-up to sensible risk campaign would suffice although EAs are encouraged to pledge a commitment to the new Strategy);**
- **promote sensible risk management as:**
 - ensuring that workers and citizens are properly protected;
 - providing overall benefit to society by balancing benefits and risks, with a focus on controlling real risks – both those which arise more often and those with serious consequences;
 - enabling innovation and learning, not stifling them;
 - ensuring that those who create risks manage them responsibly and understand that failure to manage real risks responsibly is likely to lead to robust action;
 - enabling individuals to understand that, as well as the right to protection, they also have to exercise personal responsibility;
- **promote sensible risk management as not:**
 - creating a totally risk-free society;
 - generating useless paperwork mountains;
 - scaring people by exaggerating or publicising trivial risks;
 - stopping important recreational and learning activities for individuals where the risks are managed;
 - reducing protection of people from risks that cause real harm and suffering;
- **promote and put into practice the principles of sensible risk management in your roles as:**
 - regulator; employer; contractor; partner and stakeholder.

Benefits of sensible risk management

- Focuses attention towards the real risks, meaning valuable resources are not wasted on the trivial.
- Reduced burdens on those you regulate, meaning that you become a better regulator.
- Building your organisation's credibility.

Key points

- Risk management is about practical steps to protect people from real harm and suffering – not bureaucratic back covering.

- Seek a balance between the unachievable aim of absolute safety and the kind of poor management of risk that damages lives and the economy.
- Demonstrate your support for these principles in the way you manage health and safety risks.
- Use in-house magazines, contact with dutyholders and other means to promote the sensible risk management message.

Further sources of information

Strategy, Health and Safety of Great Britain – Be Part of the Solution

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy/pledge.htm>

HSE's Risk Management home page

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/risk/index.htm>

Myth of the Month

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/myth/index.htm>

Sensible Risk Management

Are you compliant with S18's Sensible Risk Management requirements?

To answer "yes" you should be able to demonstrate that your EA:

- **promotes sensible risk management:**
 - Has your EA signed up to either the Sensible Risk Management Campaign or pledged commitment to the Strategy, Health and Safety of Great Britain – Be Part of the Solution, which encompasses the principles of the Sensible Risk Management Campaign?
 - Can you demonstrate at least one example where you have promoted sensible risk management in the last 12 months?